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SOURCE (b)(1) (b)(3)

1. The Yugoslav Government is convinced that the Soviet Union has chosen Bulgaria as the site for launching an attack against Yugoslavia. According to information received by the Yugoslav Government, Bulgaria has been instructed by the Cominform to provoke an incident on a day to be named by the Soviets.

2. The preparations of Vladimir Poptomov, Bulgarian Foreign Minister, are being closely followed in Belgrade. The Yugoslavs were informed that on 11 November 1949 Poptomov received two unidentified IMRO delegates from Greece. The delegates, allegedly specialists in sabotage and terrorism, will coordinate with the Bulgarians all IMRO action directed against Yugoslavia.

3. Although the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border is reinforced with troops and some of the best JUTOS, KNOJ and UDB units recently sent to Macedonia, the Bulgarians are continuing acts of terrorism in the frontier area almost nightly. Terrorist bands often bring Yugoslav prisoners and deserters back after the forays. Anti-Tito propaganda tracts are introduced into Yugoslavia during the raids.

4. The Bulgarian terror campaign began in the Pirin area of Macedonia, particularly in the vicinity of Petric. Many local government officials and teachers suspected of pro-Tito sentiments were arrested, including Mita Kovacevski, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Municipal Secretary Liscja and Stovje Cukovski, Secretary of the National Council of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The families of each escaped to Yugoslavia. Yugoslav nationals in the Pirin area were arrested, deported to Yugoslavia or forced to declare themselves pro-Cominform. In the latter case it is alleged that the men were drafted immediately for military service, stationed along the frontier with Yugoslav deserters shipped from Hungary and Rumania, and often induced to participate in raids across the border.

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5. The Bulgarian I.S., assisted by the Soviets, is extremely active. Macedonian agents, including Dimitri Kovaski, Todor Nemski, Nicola Alexander Popov, are financially well supported, working for Bulgarians, and running agent chains composed of Yugoslav Cominformists and Macedonians. Tito agents reportedly are also active, but are continually being apprehended by Bulgarian counter-espionage units.

6. In Yugoslavia, Macedonians with Bulgarian sympathies have been arrested as "Cominformists". Among them were Ognjen (sic) Prica who was shot, Vanko Markovski who is under house arrest, both newspaper editors, and Radovan Zogovic, a poet.

7. Tito agents are allegedly wooing the Macedonians and offering the IMRO delegate weapons, money, and full independence of Macedonia in return for immediate Macedonian aid against Bulgaria. IMRO, however, is obliged to maneuver its followers in such a way as not to offend either Bulgaria or Yugoslavia, but rather to await the propitious moment for an uprising which would establish an independent Macedonian state. To accomplish this aim, IMRO is attempting to become a "third force" sought by both sides.

8. Most Macedonians favor Bulgaria, even though the vast majority are anti-Communist. However, to abate the persecution of Macedonians in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, IMRO has advised its followers to join in the respective Bulgarian and Yugoslav Communist Parties, and, under this protection, to work for independence. Poptomov is aware of the IMRO aversion to Communism, but is certain that the hatred of Ivan Mihailov, IMRO leader for Tito tends, as in the past, to place IMRO in the Bulgarian camp.

9. Approximately 200 Greek rebels who were sent to Bulgaria have been incorporated in the Bulgarian Army and are studying the language. Another 1,000 rebels were recently sent to Rumania and to the Soviet Union after a two-month indoctrination course held in a camp at Varna.

10. On 24 October 1949, the Bulgarian Air Corps received 20 fighters, 5 or 6 bombers and 3 transport planes from the Soviet Union. Furthermore, a shipment of 15 Soviet T-34 tanks is to be delivered to Bulgaria.

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